

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN JO 01349 060115Z

61

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 ARA-16 ISO-00 L-03 SEC-03 JUSE-00 COME-00

TRSE-00 TAR-02 AGR-20 AID-20 PM-07 NSC-07 SP-03 SS-20

RSC-01 PA-04 PRS-01 USIA-15 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

OMB-01 DRC-01 /146 W

----- 111814

R 052135Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6706

INFO AMEMBASSY BOGOTA

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

AMEMBASSY QUITO

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1349

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRD, PFOR, XK, CS

SUBJECT: BANANA TAX: ALLEGED IMPLICATION OF VESCO & MAFIA

REF: (A) STATE 067277

(B) TEGUCIGALPA 01387

1. WE HAVE NO RPT NO INFORMATION TO SUPPORT THE ALLEGED
LINKAGE OF FIGUERES, VESCO AND THE MAFIA AS BACKGROUND FOR
FIGUERES'S BANANA TAX ACTION.BECAUSE OF MARKETING COMPLEXITIES
OUR IMPRESSION IS THAT A TAKE-OVER BY THIS GROUP WOULD MAKE VERY
LITTLE BUSINESS SENSE. WHILE THERE WAS INITIALLY SOME
SPECULATION THAT STANDARD MIGHT BE EXPROPRIATED IN RETALIATION
FOR ITS REFUSAL TO GO ALONG WITH THE TAX, THIS NOTION HAS NEVER
REALLY BEEN TAKEN UP AS A VIABLE ALTERNATIVE; ALTHOUGH STANDARD
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PAGE 02 SAN JO 01349 060115Z

HAS BEEN ROUNDLY ATTACKED IN THE PRESS. DURING THE NEXT

SEVERAL DAYS WE MAY PICK UP ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.

2. IN OTHER MATTERS AFFECTING BANANAS DECREE
NO. 3646-8 DATED APRIL 1 THE GOCR SUSPENDED SHIPMENT
OF SECOND QUALITY BANANAS (SMALLER THAN 8 INCHES) FOR THE
MONTH OF APRIL. THIS IS IN FURTHERANCE OF THE GOCR'S
INTENTION TO CUT SHIPMENTS BY 12 PERCENT.

3. MOREOVER, ON APRIL 2 THE ASSEMBLY RECEIVED AND
APPROVED IN FIRST DEBATE THE NEW \$1.00 PER BOX TAX. EARLY
PASSAGE OF THE BILL IS ANTICIPATED SINCE USUAL PROCEDURES
HAVE BEEN WAIVED.
LANE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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30 JUN 2005

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To: STATE
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